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LII. — NOTES ON SPANISH ARCHÆOLOGY—PARTICULARLY ITS PREHISTORIC REMAINS. By LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, President, R.I. A.

[Read April 26th, 1869.]

SPAIN is a country full of interest, and has been very imperfectly explored. Its riches in an Agricultural, Metallurgical, and Geological point of view, are tolerably well known. The great masters of the painting schools of Seville, Badajoz, Granada, and Valencia have a world-wide reputation. Its sacred edifices, especially the cathedrals of Burgos, Toledo, Cordoba, and Seville, have been long studied by the architects of all nations. It is not, however, so well known what a rich mine of Archæological wealth exists in the Peninsula. It is true that the ruins of the Roman cities which once existed have long attracted observation; the aqueducts of Alcantara, Segovia, and Tarragona, the amphitheatre of Italica, and the ancient city of Merida, have been the pride of Spaniards. Their Museums also contain fine collections of ancient coins, belonging to the Iberian, Carthaginian, Roman, Gothic, and Mussulman periods. There are but few local Museums; those of Seville, Granada, and Tarragona are the most remarkable that I have visited. I must also mention that there is now being formed a National Museum of Antiquities at Madrid. It is under the direction of one of the most distinguished Archæologists of Spain, El Señor Don José Amador de los Rios, and contains a magnificent collection of Roman, Arab, Mediæval, and prehistoric remains. It has also a very large ethnographic collection, as well as a collection of ancient Spanish coins, attached to it.

The Academia de Historia, has a fine library, and some Mahometan inscriptions, besides a magnificent silver *lanx*, called the *Disco Teodosiano*. It was found at Merida, and is in a fine state of preservation. It is ornamented with figures in relief, representing the Emperor Theodosius and his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, sitting on thrones, with other allegorical figures, and an inscription proving that it had been produced in commemoration of the *Quinquennales* of the elder emperor. I know of nothing like it in any Museum in Europe. It will doubtless be ultimately deposited in the National Archæological Museum.

I shall not allude further to the Moorish antiquities, which are very remarkable, and have attracted much attention in Spain. This country possesses several accomplished Arabic scholars, among whom El Señor Pasqual de Gayangos is *facile princeps*.

To come to the subject which I have principally in view, Prehistoric Archæology, I was agreeably disappointed in finding that, although I believe out of Spain little is known of the most ancient monuments contained in it, at the present moment nothing interests the learned in that country so much as the late discoveries in the Swiss Lakes and the caverns of the Dordogne. They are also giving great attention to the study of Celtic remains in Ireland, Brittany, and other parts of Europe; and, what is most important, there are many intelligent antiquaries who are busy in researches through the different provinces of their own country, and making excavations, &c. I may mention

among the most distinguished *Senores* Don Manuel de Gongora y Martinez, Don Hernandez of Tarragona, Don Jose Villamil, Don Francisco Tubino, and Don Antonio Benavides, the President of the Academia de Historia. Don Manuel de Gongora has just published a very remarkable work on this subject, from which I shall, before the conclusion of my Paper, make a few extracts. I also feel bound to express my acknowledgments to Don Francisco Tubino, who first indicated to me some of the sites where prehistoric remains were to be found. It is remarkable that, whilst we are accustomed to consider the Spaniards as very backward in most branches of intellectual inquiry, it is the only country that I know of in which a respect for Archæology is endeavoured to be planted in the rising generation by elementary works. I have brought for inspection a little volume printed at Barcelona, which I may call an Archæological Primer, by Don Jose de Marjanés, for the use of their national schools. It is entitled "*Nociones de Arqueologia Española.*"

It appears that caves used as human habitations, cromlechs, logan stones, megalithic structures, and cyclopean walls are found in many parts of Spain. In the latter I shall instance the remarkable Iberian walls of Tarragona, and the Castello de Ibro, near Baeza. As to what are generally called Celtic monuments, they seem to be generally scattered through the country, particularly through the mountains of Andalusia, the Sierra Morena, the Cantabrian chain, Catalonia, and even Portugal. Rude vases of pottery, implements of stone, axes, arrow heads, &c., are very common, as well as celts, lance heads, palstaves and other implements of bronze. In all their museums there are some of them, and I have brought a few for inspection. In the Museo Nacional Arqueologico of Madrid there is a large collection. There are also some very curious figures, which certainly belong to a very remote period, and have puzzled sorely the antiquaries (see Pl. xxxiv.). They are called the *Toros de Guisando*, and sometimes *Marranos*. They are very rude representations of animals, rudely cut out of granite blocks. By some they are supposed to be bulls; by others, bears or wild boars. They are called of Guisando because they were first discovered in a deserted tract between Avila and the Escorial, called Guisando. But there are several sets of them. The sketch which I exhibit is taken from a photograph of some procured in a courtyard of one of the ancient palaces at Avila.

Celts and palstaves are of very common occurrence; and what is most remarkable is that finding them with two loops is not considered any unusual occurrence.\* In the Armeria real de Madrid there are two fine palstaves, both with two loops; they are said to have been discovered in the north of Spain. They have also been found in Portugal. I saw a very fine one at Granada. You possess one in your Museum, which I believe was found in Ireland, and there has been one found in Anglesey.

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\* Pl. xxxv., figures 1 and 2, show a celt of this kind; fig. 3 is another; fig. 4 is a stone weapon. The object represented by fig. 1 is from Asturias. See also p. 479.

I shall not allude to the discoveries made in the rock of Gibraltar, as they have been so well described by Doctor Busk and others. I may, however, mention that they belong to a recent geological formation, and have been accompanied with remains of man. I exhibit a stone taken from St. Michael's Cave.

Mr. Evans ("Transactions of the Ethnological Society," vol. vii.) describes some interesting discoveries in Portugal. The Museum of the library of Evora contains some interesting arms of stone, which he calls club celts, and a gouge also of stone.

Some hatchets of amphibolic green schist found in a cromlech at Alcolgulo, and a stone muller for corn in another cromlech in the same locality.

A hatchet found at Castello de Vidè, Alentejo.

In the cave called Casa da Maura, near the village Serra-de El Ré, there are two deposits, both connected with human remains.

( $\alpha$ ). The lower deposit consisted of flint flakes, a fragment of a sort of lance head of bone, and other fragments.

( $\beta$ ). The upper deposit contained, mixed with human bones, hatchets of polished stones, knives, arrow heads, and other instruments of flint, bone, and stagshorn; fragments of rude pottery, black, with white grains of sand or calcareous spar, together with bones and teeth of animals, pebbles, flint and limestone flakes; small fragments of stone hatchets, and flat pieces of schist, with designs upon them, which may have been used as amulets; charcoal; numerous shells of *Helix nemoralis* and *aspersa*, and some pierced valves of pectunculus, much worn; also a lance head of bronze.

#### CASTILLEJO DE GUZMAN.

On the right bank of the Guadalquivir, on a low range of hills, one of which contains a Roman camp, at a distance of about three miles from Seville, is the noble farm and country residence of the Condé Castillejo de Guzman; and in a vineyard is the so-called *Cueva de la Pastora*, consisting of a long gallery or underground passage leading to a small circular chamber. It is constructed of undressed stones, without any mortar; the side walls of small ones, the covering stones of larger dimensions. It resembles in every respect the Picts' houses of Ireland and Scotland, and might be said to be a miniature New Grange. There are at two intervals large stones for the support of jambs of a doorway. The length of the gallery is twenty-seven metres, about eighty-eight feet. It is barely three feet wide, and its greatest height not above six feet. The doorways are situated, the front at about thirty-six feet from the entrance; the second, at about fifty-two feet further, close to the entrance of the circular chamber. This room is surrounded by a wall, consisting of two distinct bands of masonry, the lower one of small stones, the upper of large overlapping stones, which cover it in. Don Francisco Tubino, to whom Spanish Archæology owes so much, and who first called my attention to it, in his luminous report on this discovery, mentions that he observed in the interstices of the stones in the circular chamber groups of fossil shells of the oyster kind. Signor Professor Villanova pronounces them to be the *Ostrea sacellus*

or *caudata* of the miocene formation. I cannot say that I observed any.

#### CUEVA DE MENGAL.

This remarkable monument is situated in the immediate vicinity of the ancient City of Antequera, in the Province of Malaga.

I shall not dilate on the many objects of interest which this picturesque town still affords, although its magnificent collection of Moorish armour was destroyed, or dispersed, during the French occupation. It is on the site of a Roman town, and is full of Roman inscriptions, &c.

The *cueva* has been known for a considerable time, but has not long attracted the attention of antiquaries. In 1847, Don Rafael Mitjona published an essay upon it, with some illustrations, which I have borrowed for the present occasion. I have also given his measurements; but I will not trouble you with his theories, or discuss the question whether we owe this monument to the Celts or the Tarduli.

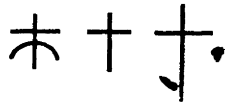
It is covered with a small mound; but the ground has been so much cleared away, that not only is the entrance easily accessible, but ample light has been admitted. It is very grand and imposing. I believe there are similar monuments in Brittany and Touraine; but I have not had yet the advantage of visiting them.

It extends from east to west. The entrance is at the east; in length it is eighty-six and a half Spanish feet, and the greatest width is twenty-two feet; the height is from ten to ten and a half feet. These are Spanish feet; but the difference between an English and a Spanish foot is insignificant.\*

The immense size of the stones is its most important feature. The side walls are more than three feet thick, and consist of ten stones on each side, and one stone closes it at the end. It is covered in by five colossal slabs, which are partly supported by the lateral walls, and partly by three great pillars. The following are the dimensions of the covering stones, in the order as we enter the apartment:—

	Width.	Length.	Thickness.	Cubic Feet.
1.	16 Ft.	18 Ft.	4 Ft.	1,152
2.	14½	21	4	1,218
3.	12½	26	4	1,300
4.	16	27	4½	1,944
5.	23	27	4½	2,794

The stone is a limestone of the neighbourhood, and has no appearance of regular dressing, nor is there any mortar used. On one of the stones near the entrance I noticed three crosses in this form:—



\* Fig. 1, Pl. xxxvi., is a view of the exterior of this cave; fig. 2 is a section, and fig. 3 a ground plan of it. Pl. xxxvii. represents the interior of the cave.

## DILAR.

A hunter, sporting at a place called Dilar, about two Spanish leagues from Granada, seventeen years ago, on the verge of the Sierra Nevada, came on some tumuli; one of them was resorted to by rabbits, and, on attempting to dislodge them, he discovered a sepulchral chamber. This discovery was supposed to indicate a mine. A company was formed; the whole tumulus was excavated, and what stones were not useful to an adjoining manufactory of baize were destroyed. Fortunately an artist of the name of Don Martino Rico appreciated their value, and made a sketch of their original state.

I visited the spot some months since; and I regret that, with the exception of two large stones, which seem to have formed the entrance, there is nothing remaining *in situ* (see Pl. xxxviii.). Their dimensions are—height, 245 inches, and their front width is 317 inches. There is an opening in the door of 195 inches. I also saw the stones which had been removed from thence, which have been used for flagging at the manufactory of Don Pedro Rogés. Their dimensions are—

	Inches.	Inches.
1.	242 length, by	131 breadth.
2.	262 „	124 „

In the immediate vicinity of this unfortunate tumulus there are two other tumuli, which have not been disturbed, and I trust are reserved for investigation in less troublous times.

Having exhausted the more remarkable monuments which I have visited, I shall conclude with some extracts from a remarkable work of Señor Don Manuel de Gongora y Martinez, entitled “*Antiquedades Prehistoricas de Andalucia.*”

Cave of Albuñol, near Motril, in the Province of Granada, vulgarly called *Cueva de los Murcielagos*, or *Bat's Cave*.

It is situated on the side of a steep ravine, which is approached by a steep path (see Pl. xxxix. A, fig. 1). It is limestone rock.

In this cave there were found at letter (B.) in the accompanying sketch (Pl. xxxix.), three skeletons. The skull of one had a diadem of pure gold (fig. 2, Pl. xxxix.) of twenty-four carats, weighing twenty-five adarmas, about one drachm, and of the intrinsic value of sixty dollars.

At C. (Pl. xxxix.) three more skeletons, the skull of one stuck between two large stones, and beside it a cap of esparto, with fresh marks on it, apparently of blood.

At D. (Pl. xxxix.) twelve skeleton bodies were discovered, surrounding the body of a female, admirably preserved, clothed in a garment of skin, open on the left side, and kept together in the middle by two straps interlaced. It had a necklace of esparto, from whose rings hung marine shells, except the central one, which had a boar's tusk fashioned at the extremity, ear-rings of a black stone, without any opening, and probably fixed by a ring.

The skeleton of the diadem was clothed in a fine short tunic of esparto, the others in a like though of somewhat coarser material, caps of the same, some with the cone folded back, others of a semi-circular form; sandals of esparto, some of them elaborately worked. Close to the skeletons there were flint knives, hatchets, and other instruments, arrows, with flint points, fixed to rough sticks, with a very tenacious bitumen; rude but sharp arms of silex, some of them kept in purses of esparto; vessels of clay; a large piece of skin; very thick knives, and pickaxes of bone; spoons of wood, with a large low bowl, with very short handles, and a hole for suspension.

At E., Pl. xxxix., upwards of fifty bodies, all with sandals, and dresses of esparto, arms of stone, and a bone polisher.

Each of the three skeletons at C. had a basket of esparto, varying in size from six to fifteen inches, two of them full of a kind of black arenaceous earth, probably food carbonized by time, and a variety of small baskets, with locks of hair, flowers, poppyheads, and univalv-shells. The skeletons were covered with flesh, reduced to the condition of mummies, and the dresses and baskets retained their original colours.

These vases were very rude, but some of them with ornamental borders. They had spouts, handles, &c., some of them were sun-dried, others baked.

This cave was discovered in 1831; but was immediately taken possession of by miners, who turned everything topsy-turvy in search of metals; and, not finding any, they did much damage by their careless manner of scraping off the saltpetre which had accumulated on the walls of the cavern. However, Señor Don Gongora succeeded in securing specimens of all the objects discovered, mostly on the spot.

The gold diadem is still in existence, in the possession of Don Condres de Unzor.

In the same work there is description of some very remarkable cromlechs in the Cañada de Hoyon, between Granada and Alcalá la real.

See particularly *Dolmen del Hoyon*.

„ *Dolmen del Herradero*.

„ *Dolmen de la Canada del Herradero*.

I beg also to call public attention to the following monuments, also illustrated in the same valuable work :—

Four *Dolmens* at *Mugadar del Conejo*.

*Dolmen de las Eriales*, near which were found arms of bronze, and clay vessels.

*Dolmen de la cuesta de los Chaparros*.

Three *Dolmens* of *El Hoyo de las Cuevas del Congriel*. In one of these there was found an arrow head, with three points, of which I have given a sketch, Pl. xxxv., fig. 4. I have also given a sketch of a copper axe head, with two rings, found in the Sierra de Baza, Pl. xxxv., fig. 3.

## CUEVA DEL GATO.

Within a few miles of the city of Ronda, by the lower road to Gibraltar, in the beautiful Val de Angostura, is a chasm in the mountains which form its northern boundary, through which there rushes a brawling stream to join the river below. Its sides are covered with a luxurious brushwood, and the most gorgeous wild plants.

Just below its opening there is a small cave, which is sometimes resorted to by the shepherds of the district. This, probably, was the abode of some of the wild tribes which peopled this country in primeval times. I exhibit a stone celt which was found there by a friend of mine the same day that I visited it.

LIII.—ON AN AGREEMENT, IN IRISH, BETWEEN GERALD, NINTH EARL OF KILDARE, AND THE MAC RANNALLS; EXECUTED AT MAYNOOTH, NOVEMBER 5, 1530, AND SEALED WITH THE SEAL OF THE COLLEGE OF MAYNOOTH. By C. W. RUSSELL, D.D.

[Read May 24, 1869.]

AMONG the grounds upon which the authenticity of a historical document may be impeached, there is none so formidable as the suspicion of an anachronism. Had the ancient and highly interesting instrument which I have the honour to submit this evening to the consideration of the Academy chanced to remain unnoticed for four or five centuries longer, it is far from improbable that its genuineness might come to be called into question on the ground of a palpable misdate. The College of Maynooth has occupied so large a share of public attention during the present century, and the date and circumstances of its origin have been so frequently discussed, that few facts in the modern history of our country are more firmly established and more unquestioningly accepted than that of its foundation by Mr. Pitt in 1795. So entirely have the many controversies regarding Maynooth College, in and out of Parliament, occupied the public mind with the existing institution, as to shut out, not merely the memory, but even the idea of another earlier foundation of the same name. And thus it may readily be believed that a future antiquarian of, perhaps, the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth century, to whose judgment the alleged agreement between the Mac Rannall\* and the Earl of Kildare, in 1530, might be submitted, would, on discovering that this document purported to be sealed with the seal of the College of Maynooth, at once pronounce it to be an unskilful forgery, that College not having been founded till nearly three hundred years after the professed date of the agreement.

\* The Irish orthography of the name is *Magradhnaill*; but I have thought it convenient, except in the Irish Deed and the translation of it, to follow the generally received spelling—Mac Rannall.